



For More Information

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MERCER ISLAND RECEIVES EPA GREEN POWER COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARD

NATIONAL AWARD HONORS LEADING GREEN POWER PURCHASERS

Mercer Island, WA, 23 Sept 2013 – The City of Mercer Island announced today that it has received a 2013 Green Power Leadership Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The annual awards recognize the country's leading green power users for their commitment and contribution to helping advance the development of the nation's voluntary green power market.

Mercer Island was one of only two communities nationwide to receive a Leadership Award for employing renewable energy in amounts that meet or exceed EPA requirements for residents' and businesses' collective green power use. Mercer Island currently uses more than 6 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually, which is enough to meet 4 percent of the community's entire purchased electricity needs. Green Power Communities distinguish themselves through their green power usage, leadership, citizen engagement, renewable energy strategy, and impact on the green power market.

"This community of Mercer Island has a long history of commitment to sustainability," said Mayor Bruce Bassett. "From the very beginning, Mercer Island's campaign to meet a [Green Power Challenge](#) set by Puget Sound Energy was a community-wide effort, and we are honored by this national recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Not only does the City cover 35 percent of its operational usage with green power, but also home and business participation increased by 55 percent. Our recent City-owned solar installation exemplifies Mercer Island's ongoing efforts to shrink its carbon footprint, like many other cities nationwide working on local green energy solutions."

According to the EPA, Mercer Island's current green power use is equivalent to avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of more than 900 passenger vehicles per year, or is the equivalent amount of electricity needed to power nearly 700 average American homes annually.

Green power is electricity that is generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biogas, eligible biomass, and low-impact hydro. Using green power accelerates the development of new renewable energy capacity nationwide and helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector.

"EPA is pleased to recognize the City of Mercer Island with a Green Power Community of the Year award for its leadership and citizen engagement in dramatically increasing its use of green power," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "We applaud Mercer Island's residents, businesses, and organizations for choosing green power that will help address climate change and support a clean energy future."



About The City of Mercer Island

At five miles long and two miles wide, Mercer Island is a true family-oriented island community consisting mostly of quiet residential neighborhoods, along with 475 acres of parks and open space, developed shoreline, and a commercial business district at the northern end with multi-family living options. Stunning views of Seattle, the Cascades, Mount Rainier and Lake Washington abound for its 22,000 residents.

Sustainability is taken seriously on the island: for over a decade, green choices have become part of City operations, and in 2012 the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force generated a comprehensive set of policy recommendations to guide future actions, resource use, carbon footprint reduction, and maintain a healthy community. Well-known local events include the two-day Summer Celebration! festival, the Leap for Green environmental fair, many activities and programs at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center, and a very popular Farmers Market.

<http://www.mercergov.org/sustainability>

About EPA's Green Power Partnership

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with purchased electricity use. The Partnership currently has more than 1,500 Partner organizations collectively purchasing billions of kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500® companies, small and medium sized businesses, local, state, and federal governments, and colleges and universities.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower>

About the Green Power Leadership Awards

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) co-sponsors the annual Green Power Leadership Awards in conjunction with the Center for Resource Solutions. EPA recognizes winners in the following awards categories: Green Power Partner of the Year; Sustained Excellence in Green Power; On-site Generation; Green Power Purchasing; Green Power Community of the Year; and Green Power Supplier of the Year. EPA's Green Power Purchaser awards recognize the exceptional achievement among EPA Green Power Partners who distinguish themselves through green power procurement, market leadership, overall green power strategy, and overall impact on the green power market. EPA's Green Power Supplier awards recognize green power suppliers for outstanding efforts, initiatives and programs that significantly advance the development of green power sources serving the voluntary market. The Awards are held in conjunction with the Renewable Energy Markets Conference. For additional information please visit

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/awards/>

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